# RAMSEY

# URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

## ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

UPON THE

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT

DURING THE YEAR 1970

# R A M S E Y  U R B A N  D I S T R I C T  C O U N C I L

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL AS AT

31.12.70

Mrs. E.M. Hertzog (In the Chair)

| | |
|---|---|
| W.I. Akst | R. Bojdys |
| A.S. Cross | H.W. Haddon |
| E.H.C. Jones | J.R. Major |
| J. Pickard | K.J. Richardson |
| Miss C.M. Riddy | E.F. Slote |
| A. Smith | |

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STAFF:

P.V. CANT, M.B., Ch.B, D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

R.C. GREEN, M.A.P.H.I.
Public Health Inspector.

To The Ramsey Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my thirteenth Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the District for the year ending 31st December, 1970.

The mid-year population was estimated by the Registrar General as unchanged, at 5,620.

There were 84 live births during the year. The crude birth rate was 14.9 and the adjusted rate 14.8 per 1,000 of the population. The birth rate for England and Wales was 16 per 1,000. 2% of the births were illegitimate as compared with 8% in England and Wales.

One infant died aged under twelve months, but there were no still-births.

There were 58 deaths during the year 31 males and 27 females. This gives a crude death rate of 10.3 and an adjusted rate of 11.2 per 1,000 population. The death rate for England and Wales was 11.7.

Little infectious disease was notified during the year; an analysis of this is shown in the table.

The latter half of the year was noteworthy in that the County, through the School Medical Service, launched a campaign to immunise all girls against German Measles in their 14th year. This is to prevent them from catching this disease later on in life, during pregnancy; since if this occurs there is a possibility of it causing the baby to have congenital abnormalities. I advise all parents to have their girls immunised under this scheme. It only necessitates one practically painless injection and may save the girls a lot of worry in the future.

The water supply throughout the District is satisfactory and of good quality, but contains very little fluoride.

Steady progress was made during the year with the sewerage of the outlying areas. Stage 1. (Ramsey Mereside, Forty Foot Bridge, and Bodsey) being completed. Stage 11. (Ramsey St. Mary's and Ramsey Heights) also made steady progress and will, it is hoped, be completed during 1971. The extension of the sewage works was completed, and is giving a good effluent.

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At the end of the year there were still 170 houses in the District with pail closets, but as the houses are connected to the new sewers this number will now fall rapidly.

On April 1st we lost Mr. H.G. Bell our Public Health Inspector. Having obtained a post in the City of Peterborough he resigned his appointment. We were sorry to lose him, as he had done good work here for seven and a half years, and we wish him well in his new appointment.

I am most grateful to the members of the Council and their Officers and Staff for all the help which they have given me during the year.

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

| | |
|---|---|
| Area ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 15,980 acres |
| Estimated Population ... ... ... ... | 5,620 |
| Density of Persons per acre ... ... ... | 0.34 |
| Number of inhabited Houses as at 1.4.70 ... | 1,933 |
| Rateable Value, March 31st 1970 ... ... | £184,599 |
| Value of Penny Rate 69/70 ... ... ... | £746 |

## VITAL STATISTICS

| | |
|---|---|
| Live Births ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 84 |
| Rate per 1,000 population ... ... ... ... ... ... | 14.9 |
| Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births ... ... | 2 |
| Still-births ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | nil |
| Still-birth Rate per 1,000 live and still-births ... ... ... | nil |
| Total live and still-births ... ... ... ... ... ... | 84 |
| Infant deaths under one year ... ... ... ... ... ... | 1 |
| Infant Mortality Rates | |
| Infant deaths per 1,000 live births ... ... ... ... | 12 |
| Perinatal Mortality Rate, per 1,000 total births ... ... | nil |
| Maternal Mortality (including abortion) | |
| Number of deaths ... ... ... ... ... ... | nil |
| Rate per 1,000 live and still-births ... ... ... ... | nil |
| Number of deaths (all ages) ... ... ... ... ... ... | 58 |
| Death Rate per 1,000 population ... ... ... ... ... | 10.3 |
| Deaths from Cancer (total) ... ... ... ... ... ... | 11 |
| Cancer of lung or bronchus ... ... ... ... ... ...(m) | 2 |
| Ischaemic heart disease ... ... ... ... ... ... | 14 |
| Other heart disease ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 2 |

## TUBERCULOSIS

| | | New Cases | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Age group | Male | Female | Total |
| Pulmonary | 40 - 45 | Nil | 1 | 1 |
| Non Pulmonary | | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| | Total cases | Nil | 1 | 1 |

There were no deaths from Tuberculosis during 1970

## Table showing Infant Deaths and the Mortality Rate Over Six Years

| | 1965 | 1966 | 1967 | 1968 | 1969 | 1970 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Actual Number of Deaths | 1 | Nil | Nil | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Death Rate per 1,000 Live Births | 9.6 | Nil | Nil | 14 | 28 | 12 |

## Comparison of Rates with those of England and Wales

| | Per 1,000 Population | | | | Per 1,000 Live Births | Per 1,000 Total Births |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Live Birth Rate | Adjusted Birth Rate | Crude Death Rate | Adjusted Death Rate | Infantile Mortality Rate | Still Births Rate |
| Ramsey U.D. | 14.9 | 14.8 | 10.3 | 11.2 | 12 | Nil |
| England and Wales | - | 16.0 | - | 11.7 | 18 | 13 |

Comparability Factor Births 0.99

Comparability Factor Deaths 1.09

The comparability factors are figures by which the crude birth and death rates need to be multiplied so as to find the adjusted rates. The adjusted rates are then comparable with the rates for England and Wales or the adjusted rates of any other place in the Country. The Registrar General calculates the factors from information available to him concerning amongst other things tho age and sex structure of the population.

The following table shows the classification of deaths from all causes. Registrar General's figures

| Cause of Death | Male | Female | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Enteritis and other diarrhoeal diseases ... ... ... | - | 1 | 1 |
| Malignant neoplasm, intestine ... ... ... ... | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ... ... ... | 2 | - | 2 |
| Leukaemia ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 1 | - | 1 |
| Other malignant neoplasms ... ... ... ... ... | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Hypertensive disease ... ... ... ... ... ... | 2 | - | 2 |
| Ischaemic heart disease ... ... ... ... ... | 8 | 6 | 14 |
| Other forms of heart disease ... ... ... ... | - | 2 | 2 |
| Cerebro vascular disease ... ... ... ... ... | 4 | 5 | 9 |
| Other diseases of circulatory system ... ... ... | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Pneumonia .. ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Bronchitis and emphysema ... ... ... ... ... | 1 | - | 1 |
| Peptic ulcer ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 1 | - | 1 |
| Other diseases of digestive system ... ... ... | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Diseases of skin, subcutaneous tissue ... ... ... | - | 1 | 1 |
| Birth injury, difficult labour, etc. ... ... ... | 1 | - | 1 |
| Symptoms and ill defined conditions ... ... ... | - | 1 | 1 |
| Motor vehicle accidents ... ... ... ... ... | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| Suicide and self-inflicted injuries ... ... ... | - | 1 | 1 |
| Total all causes | 31 | 27 | 58 |

The following table gives the incidence of notifiable diseases (other than tuberculosis) in the area during 1970.

| DISEASE | TOTAL | Under 1 year | 1 - 2 | 2 - 3 | 3 - 4 | 4 - 5 | 5 - 10 | 10 - 15 | 15 - 20 | 20 - 35 | 35 - 45 | 45 - 65 | 65 and upwards | Admitted to Hospital | Total Deaths |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SMALLPOX | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| SCARLET FEVER | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| DIPHTHERIA | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| MEASLES | 8 | 2 | 2 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - |
| WHOOPING COUGH | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| JAUNDICE | 4 | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | - |
| DYSENTERY | 2 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - |
| POLIOMYELITIS | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| FOOD POISIONING | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - |
| PARA-TYPHOID | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| ACUTE MENINGITIS | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

I am,

Your obedient servant,

Philip V. Cant.

Medical Officer of Health.

Child Health Centre,
Whittlesey Road,
Stanground,
Peterborough, PE2 8RB
Phone: Peterborough 68010

# REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1970

## TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Sir,

I beg to submit my report for the year ending 31st December, 1970.

Mr. H. G. Bell who was the Public Health Inspector, resigned his appointment having obtained employment with Peterborough City Council. On 1st April I took up the appointment of Public Health Inspector in addition to my duties as Surveyor. The re-introduction of a joint appointment was as a result of Consultant's advice upon the better and more economic use of manpower.

### Housing:

It has only been necessary to serve two notices for the repair of a dwelling house. Other repairs have been effected by informal action.

### Inspection of Houses during the year:

| | |
|---|---|
| Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health Act and Housing Acts) ... ... ... ... | 170 |
| Number of houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ... ... ... | 12 |
| Number of inspections made for the purpose ... ... ... ... | 20 |
| Number of houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 51 |

### Action under Statutory Powers:

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | 4 |
| Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | 1 |
| Number of separate tenements in respect of which Closing Orders were made | Nil |
| Number of written undertakings given by owners not to relet cottages for human habitation ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | Nil |
| Number of houses closed by agreement pending demolition ... ... ... | 9 |

Improvement Grants:

10 applications for Standard Grants were received during the year.

6 applications for Improvement Grants (Discretionary) were received during the year.

4 Standard Grants were paid during the year.

1 Discretionary Grant was paid during the year.

Work started during the year on the improvement of a further 50 Council houses and plans and specifications had been prepared for work on another 48. It is expected that by the middle of 1971 all the Council houses which are in sound structural condition in the urban district will have proper amenities and either be connected to the sewer or provided with a satisfactory means of drainage to septic tanks. There will then only remain the problem of the disposal of 6 houses which are badly settlod and becoming gradually unsafe and another group of 8 which have moved bodily out of plumb.

No applications for certificates of disrepair were received during the year.

Nuisances:

| | |
|---|---|
| Abated as a result of informal action ... ... ... ... ... | 45 |
| Number of complaints received ... ... ... ... ... ... | 47 |
| Analysis of complaints received:- | |
| Premises ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 8 |
| Accumulations ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 3 |
| Drains ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 5 |
| Disinfestation ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 3 |
| Overflowing Cesspools ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 16 |
| Animals ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 1 |
| Insanitary houses ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 1 |
| Miscellaneous ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 10 |

Inspections and Visits

| | |
|---|---|
| Housing Waiting List ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 6 |
| Public Health Acts ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 79 |
| Housing Acts ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 207 |
| Food and Drugs Acts ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 7 |
| Food Hygiene Regulations ... ... ... ... ... ... | 30 |
| Refuse Collection and Disposal ... ... ... ... ... | 96 |
| Factory Acts ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 30 |
| Moveable dwellings ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 12 |
| Petroleum Regulations ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 45 |
| Water Supply and Sampling ... ... ... ... ... ... | 11 |
| Sewerage and Drainage ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 50 |
| Infectious Diseases ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 8 |
| Keeping of Animals ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 6 |
| Swimming Pools ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 2 |
| Infestations - Rodents ... ... ... ... ... ... | 142 |
| Infestations - Insect pests ... ... ... ... ... ... | 6 |
| Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act ... ... ... ... | 14 |
| Council Houses (Inspections, welfare and repairs) ... ... ... | 923 |
| Miscellaneous ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 19 |
| Total | 1,693 |

Closets:

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of houses at the end of the year with W.C.'s ... ... | 1861 |
| Number of houses at the end of the year with pail closets ... ... | 170 |
| Number of W.C.'s constructed for new houses ... ... ... ... | 40 |
| Number of W.C.'s constructed for old houses ... ... ... ... | 5 |

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal:

40 new drainage systems were installed and tested during the year. 22 alterations to existing systems were also tested.

The Council give a free cesspool/septic tank emptying service where

necessary. 176 cesspools/septic tanks being emptied in 1970.

At the end of the year there were still 163 pail closets emptied twice weekly by a Contractor. A further 7 remote cottages have pail closets emptied by the occupiers.

Sewerage of outside areas

During the year the extensions at the sewage works were completed and were treating the additional sewage from Ramsey Mereside, Forty Foot Bridge and Bodsey. The installation of the new sludge treatment plant is likely to prove to be well worth the expenditure, not only by producing a better quality sludge but also by providing more acceptable conditions for the sewage works employees. There have been no great difficulties in disposing of the treated sludge which can be handled better on farms than the old bed-treated sludge. The reports from the Great Ouse River Authority have shown that a satisfactory effluent is being produced. May I, in passing, say a word of appreciation regarding the Chief Pollution Prevention Officer of that Board and his Staff for advice given during the year.

Good progress was also made on the second contract for the sewering of Ramsey St. Mary's and Ramsey Heights. It is hoped that by the middle of 1971 these villages will be connected to the main sewerage scheme.

There have not been any probloms relating to the receipt and treatment of sewage from Bury in accordance with an agreement with Saint Ives R.D.C

Water Supply:

11 samples of domestic water were taken. Of these only one was marginally unsatisfactory and this was due, apparently, to a very old leather washer. This was renewed and a further sample was satisfactory.

The Cambridge Water Company has sent me copies of analysts reports and these show that the water in the water tower is very satisfactory.

The water supply throughout the District is satisfactory, but contains less than 0.2 parts per million of fluoride. This District is agreeable to fluoridation of its water supply, but we are awaiting negotiations between the Cambridge Water Company and other bodies before more can be done in the matter. There are no standpipes in the area, and there are only about five houses in the District which do not receive mains water.

Meat and Food Inspection:

There are no slaughterhouses in the district.

Unfit food is condemned following notification by the shopkeeper or

during routine inspections under the Food Hygiene Regulations.

Among the foodstuffs condemned were:-

5,670 melons.
8,580 oranges.
530 cases of Chilean onions.

In addition a small amount of frozen foods were condemned as unfit due to the breakdown of a deep freeze.

Food Premises:

The number of food premises in the area is as follows:-

| | |
|---|---|
| Cafes, Restaurants and Hotels ... ... ... ... ... | 4 |
| Butchers Shops ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 4 |
| Multiple stores selling prepacked meat ... ... ... ... | 2 |
| Grocers and General Stores ... ... ... ... ... | 21 |
| Greengrocers ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 4 |
| Bakers ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 1 |
| Confectioners ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 3 |
| Fish Shops (Fried and Wet) ... ... ... ... ... | 3 |
| School Kitchens ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 4 |
| Number of premises registered under the Food and Drugs Act ... | 32 |
| Number of inspections of registered food premises ... ... | 12 |

There are no ico-cream manufacturers in the district.

Condemned foodstuffs are burned at the Refuse Tip.

There are no poultry processing plants in the area.

Common Lodging Houses:

There are none in this District.

Factories Act 1961:

| | |
|---|---|
| Total number of factories (including bakehouses) ... ... ... | 32 |
| Number of visits during the year ... ... ... ... ... | 30 |

Extensive redecorations were carried out at the bakehouse during the year.

Refuse Collection and Disposal:

Refuse collection is carried out by direct labour, two loader/drivers and a loader provide a weekly back door collection in the town and a weekly kerbside collection in the villages. The 35 cubic yard Bedford/Eagle refuse vehicle enables the present crew to cope with the rounds easily, and the crew are able to accommodate the new dwellinghouses that are being occupied.

Refuse disposal is at the Ramsey Heights Tip and no complaints were received during the year from householders in the vicinity.

Rodent Control:

Rentokil have continued to do treatments to dwelling houses on complaint and Council properties by regular servicing.

A 10% test baiting of the sewer system showed slight infestation (5 partial takes). A fluoroacetamide treatment was carried out to 50 manholes.

Rentokil have several farm contracts in the district and another contracting firm treats Ramsey Estates. Where infestations have been reported or noticed, informal action was all that was needed to have the necessary treatments carried out. No evidence of warfarin resistance in rats or mice was noticed.

The following table shows the inspections and treatments carried out:-

| | Type of Property | |
|---|---|---|
| | Non-Agricultural | Agricultural |
| 1. Number of properties in district | 2030 | 305 |
| 2. (a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification | 114 | 6 |
| (b) Number infested by (i) Rats | 54 | 6 |
| (ii) Mice | 12 | - |
| 3. (a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification | 28 | 4 |
| (b) Number infested by (i) Rats | 12 | 1 |
| (ii) Mice | - | - |

Caravan Sites:

The one residential site, which for some years had been troublesome, had, with the voluntary co-operation of the owner, virtually closed down. At the end of the year there remained only one caravan and this was due to be vacated and removed early in 1971.

Appreciation is expressed of the interest and support of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Health Committee, Members of the Council, the guidance of the Medical Officer of Health and the co-operation of the Council Staff.

R. C. GREEN, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.